

Lord Ballyrot in Slangland



One forenoon after a constitutional stroll, old chap, I dropped into the office of a legal acquaintance. Imagine my embarrassment when I found him engrossed in his duties to such an extent that he was irascible and unfriendly. Quite so! He did not entreat me to be seated but snarled instead:

"Nix cracking, Ballyrot! Not a chirp, not a chirp! Can't you see I'm busier than a hen trying to scratch worms in an iron roof! Haul in your line of chatter, put the story of your life in brine, 'cause I gotta keep movin' like a tin rooster on a barn in a breeze. My time right now is worth a bale of mazoom and if I let you drop gems of thought in my left lung I'm set ten bucks a minute. Avast, kid! Go ease your troubles to a cop, 'cause I've got to stick on the job like the lid on a dry burg."

DIARY OF FATHER TIME

Cleveland and Akron, O., I notice, are considering the advisability of stealing an hour or two away from me by turning back the hands of their clocks so they'll have more daylight hours. I remember that it was only thirty years ago this month that the United States Congress officially recognized the present system of standard time.

Before 1884 it was necessary for a traveler to change his watch almost fifty times in a trip across the continent, if he desired to keep the same time as that in the place he might be, or sun time, like that kept on ship-board.

It was Chas. F. Dowd, principal of a young woman's school at Saratoga, who first proposed that time should be governed by meridians one hour apart and, a year later, the railroads adopted a plan drawn by W. F. Allen, secretary at the General Time Convention. In Canada the railroads all use 24-hour clocks instead of A. M. and P. M. More than 30 nations have adopted the standard time system of the U. S.

CERTAIN OF IT



"Why do you say that Brown is smarter than you are?"

"Why, you see, he had a chance once to marry my wife—and didn't."